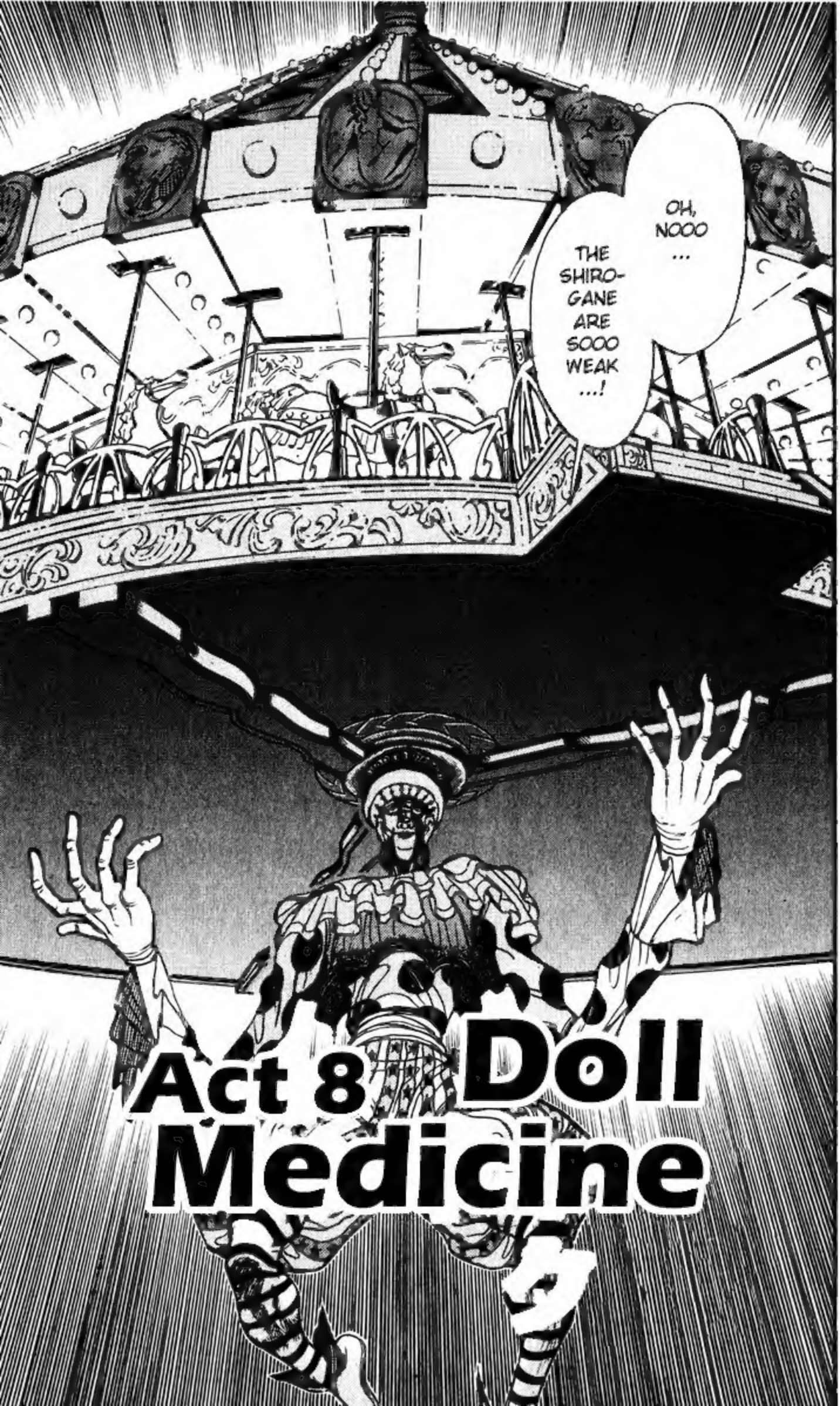


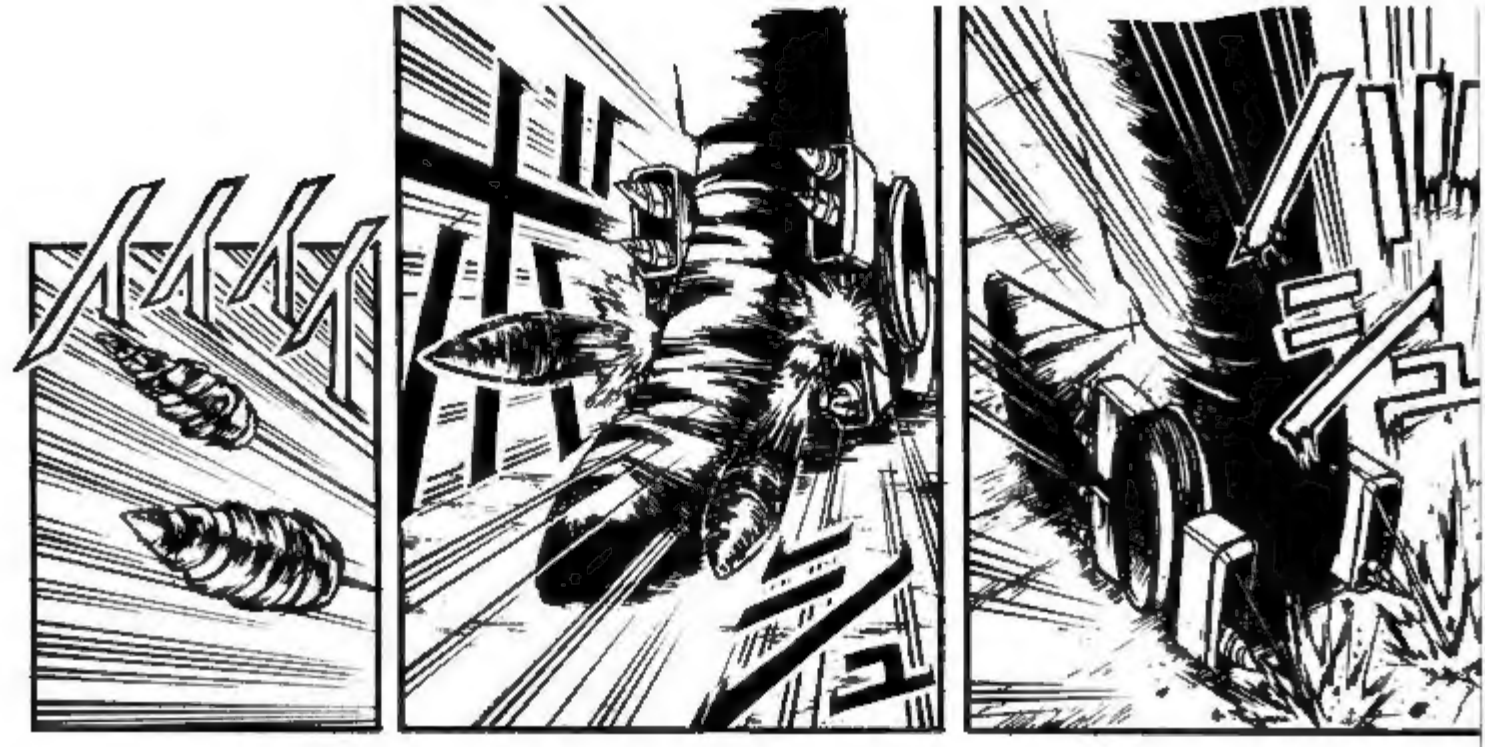
Act 8 Doll Medicine

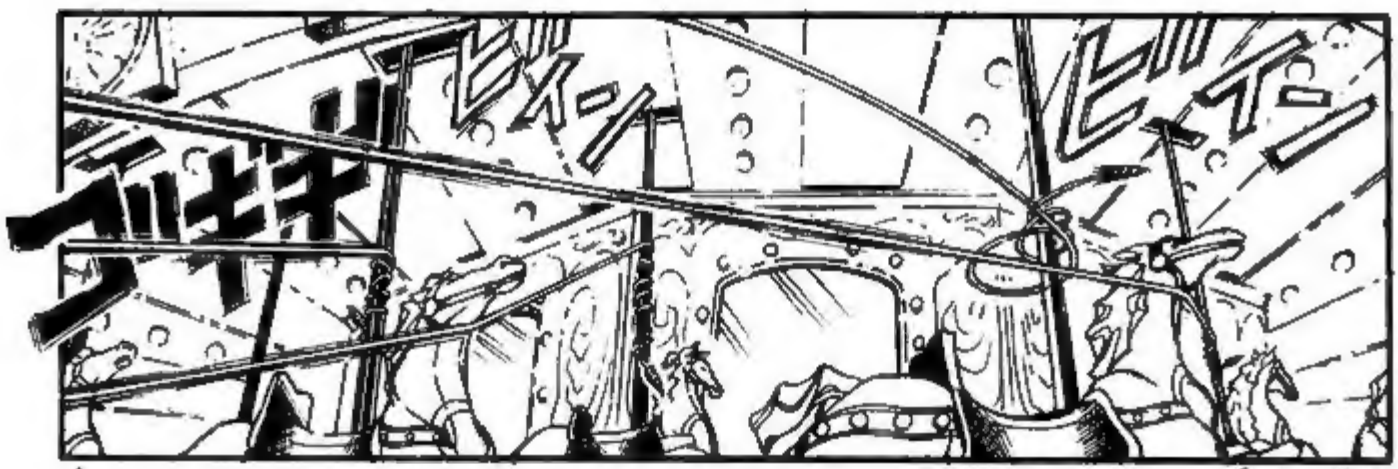
2

SPLENDID, SPLENDID, TOO MARVELOUS FOR WORDS!
MERRY-GO-ROUND OLSEN HAS ELIMINATED TWO OPPONENTS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

GGH ...

.....
SHIT! THOSE SHIRO-GANE-O ARE ALL TALK AFTER ALL!

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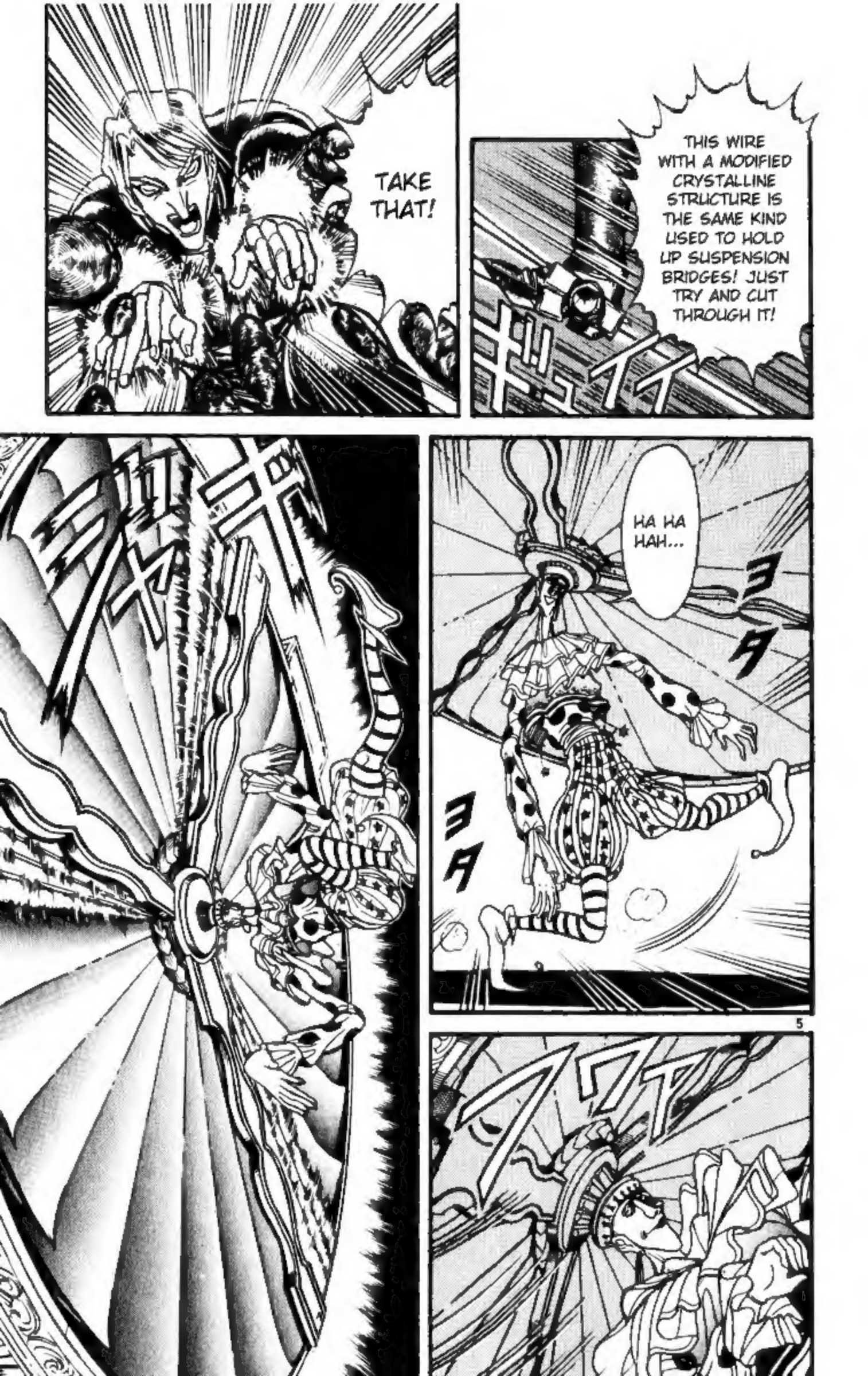
SHIROGANE-O
FIGHTER 3:
HARDY KAUFMAN

WHAT'S THIS? I'VE STOPPED MOVING ...!
キリキリ

YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH THOSE HORSIES OF YOURS!
IF I STOP YOU FROM SPIN-NING ...


TAKE THAT!
THIS WIRE WITH A MODIFIED CRYSTALLINE STRUCTURE IS THE SAME KIND USED TO HOLD UP SUSPENSION BRIDGES! JUST TRY AND CUT THROUGH IT!
HA HA HAH...

TCH ...
OHHH ...
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!
UGH ...!
BOOO-RING.

SHIROGANE-O
FIGHTER 4:
BOB SCHUMACHER
!
PFF. JEEZ, HARDY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
IS IT MY TURN ALREADY?
スッ
.....!
7

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SAYING TO ME?
THAT ANY-ONE HERE WANTS YOUR ADVICE, MR. INCOMPLETE SHIROGANE?
KUKUKU! DO YOU REALLY THINK ...
H-HEY... YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL... THAT GUY'S ...

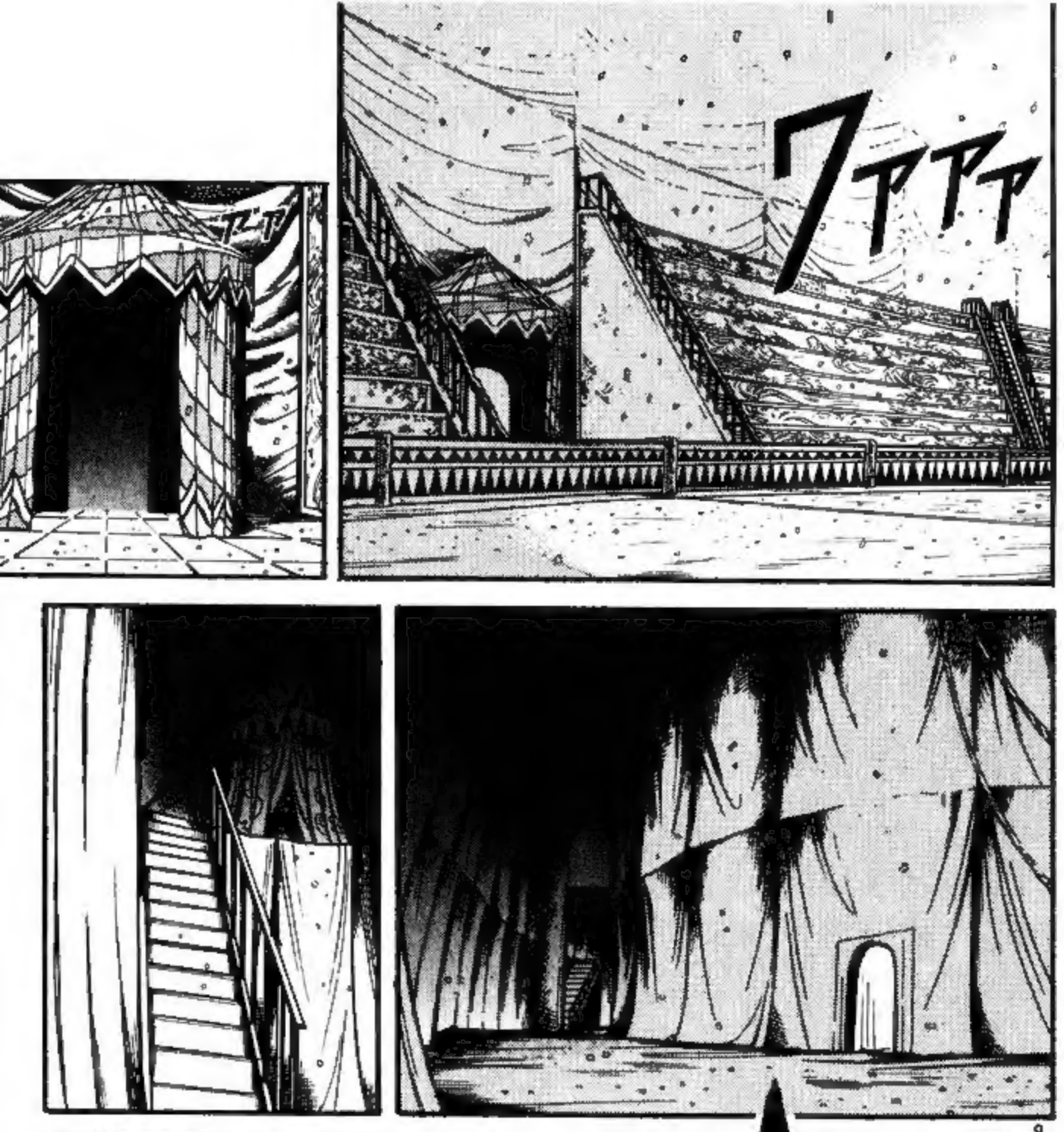
THIS GUY...!!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'M GONNA LOSE.

DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND NORMAL, DECENT PEOPLE IN A FIGHT WITH DOLLS?
KEH... OF COURSE!

THE OTHER SHIROGANE-O... WERE LIKE THAT TOO... COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT TO SEEING OTHER PEOPLE DIE... IT'S LIKE THEY HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THEM AT ALL...

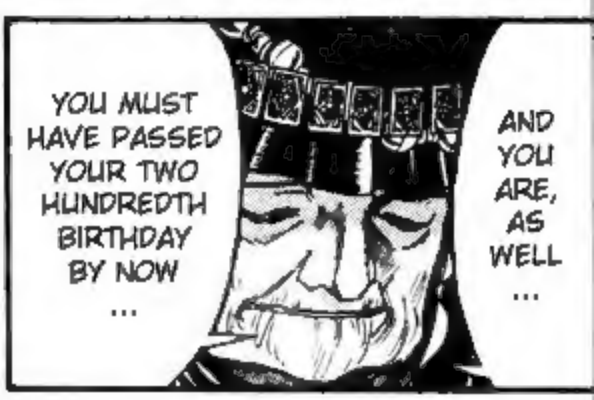
HE... EVEN THOUGH HIS FRIEND GOT KILLED SO EASILY... HE'S NOT SCARED AT ALL...
HEY, JAPANESE! YOU'RE NOT GETTING COLD FEET, ARE YOU?!

WE ARE SHIRO-GANE!


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME ...
LU-CILLE ...
YES... THIS IS QUITE A SPECIAL DAY.

OH, MONTFAUCON AND THE OTHERS...? SO THEY'RE STILL ALIVE. THEY ARE GETTING ON IN YEARS NOW, AREN'T THEY ...
MICHEL, CASTOR, AND MONTFAUCON HAVE COME AS WELL. THEY ARE OUTSIDE.
Deus ex Mac

AL-MEN-DRA.
INCLU-DING YOU...


YOU MUST HAVE PASSED YOUR TWO HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY BY NOW ...
AND YOU ARE, AS WELL ...

BY NOW, THE SURVIVORS OF KROHG VILLAGE HAVE DWINDLED TO SIX PEOPLE.
YES, THE TIME HAS FLOWN ...

hah
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hah
はあ
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HEY, THE MATCH IS DECIDED NOW, RIGHT?!
hah
はあ
ミシャ
STOP!
HEY, YOU TOO! THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP!

WHAT THE HELL ..? IS THIS WHAT SHIRO-GANE ARE ...?
PEOPLE LIKE .. LIKE THESE GUYS...?

THEY'RE SO... STRANGE ...

WE SHIROGANE... ARE STRANGE, ARE WE NOT?

AND WE ARE DRIVEN BY THE HEART OF A MAN WE NEVER KNEW, WHOSE FACE WE NEVER EVEN SAW, TO CONTINUE PURSUING OUR REVENGE...

YES.
PEOPLE WHO HAVE FORCIBLY EXTENDED THEIR LIVES WHEN THEY OUGHT TO HAVE DIED, OF COURSE WE ARE STRANGE
YOU'RE ASKING AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

WE DO NOTHING BUT GO ON DESTROYING AUTOMATA ...
UP UNTIL OUR FINAL MOMENTS ...
WE HAVE LOST EVEN SUCH FEELINGS AS FEAR AND SORROW...
WE HAVE NO SUCH GRAND CAUSE AS SAVING THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD ...

BUT WHAT HAS BECOME OF US?
SO THAT WE COULD DEFEAT THE DOLLS, WE DRANK AQUA VITAE AND BECAME SHIROGANE.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S RATHER COMICAL?
WE ARE STR-ANGE, INDEED ...
LU-CILLE.

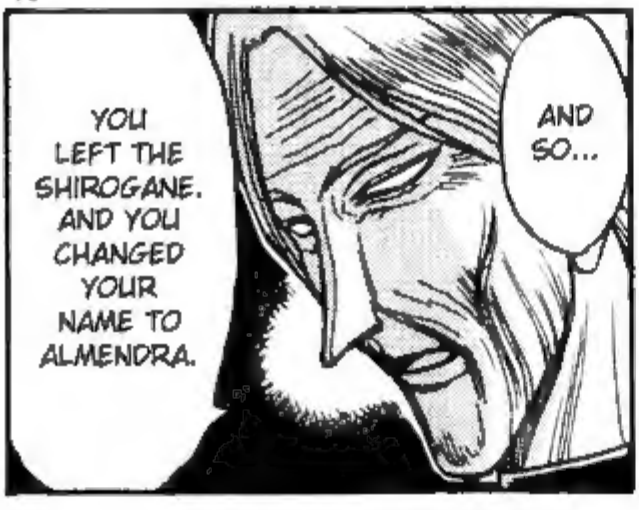
NOT SIMPLY A MEDICINE TO TURN HUMANS INTO MARIO-NETTES?
WAS THE AQUA VITAE ...

ARE WE NOT LIKE DOLLS, NOW, OURSELVES?

KYA HA HA HA!
SHIROGANE-O FIGHTER 5: MELISSA ANDERSON
14
HEY, YOU. JUST SHUT UP ALREADY.
MY MISSION IS TO FIGHT THESE DOLLS.
A CHILD ONCE ...
SAID MUCH THE SAME THING TO ME.
IT'S JUST DOLLS ...
FIGHTING WITH DOLLS.
STOP, ALREADY! THE MATCH IS ALREADY DECIDED !!

DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
KYAHA-HAHA!
SO RIGHT NOW, MY SENSE OF DUTY ...
FEELS COMP-LETELY SATIS-FIED.
I... I WAS STILL THINKING OF THE SHIRO-GANE AS HUMAN ...
MISSION...? FOR THAT MISSION, YOU'D THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY SO EASILY...?
OHHH... THIS IS NO FUN.
WHA... WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN, YOUR MISSION?! WAIT!

BUT... BAI YIN! WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS HAVE YOU CREATED?!


YOU LEFT THE SHIROGANE. AND YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME TO ALMENDRA.
AND SO...

WHETHER I WERE HUMAN, OR DOLL.
I FOUND I NO LONGER KNEW, LUCILLE ...

THEY NEED ME FOR MY FORTUNE-TELLING ...
WELL, IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED AT ALL. THOSE DOLLS CARE ABOUT VERY LITTLE BESIDES LADY FRANCINE.
HOW ON EARTH IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAVE NOT REALIZED YOU ARE A SHIROGANE ...?
MOREOVER, YOU HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO JOIN WITH OUR ENEMIES, THE AUTOMATA...
HEY, LUCILLE! WHERE'VE YOU GONE OFF TO?!
BUT... SURELY YOU HAVE NOT COME HERE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS SIMPLY TO ASK ME THAT. YOU HAVE ANOTHER PURPOSE HERE, DO YOU NOT, LUCILLE?
HMM ...
I DO...
...TO THE ONLY HUMAN BEING HERE ...
MY, YOU CERTAINLY CAN YELL ...
TCH! I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU.
OH, IS IT, REALLY?! DON'T SHOUT LIKE THAT!!
THIS IS MING-XIA! YOU CAN'T GO OFF ON YOUR OWN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS! IT'S DANGER-OUS!
YES, ALL RIGHT! COME MEET ME HERE, THEN!
mini communicator Hermes
OH, THERE YOU ARE! TELL US HOW TO GET TO YOU!

YAAAY, HERE COMES COLUM-BINE!
OUR TEAM WILL KEEP MERRY-GO ROUND OLSEN, AND ADD FOUR NEW MEMBERS.
NOW, LET'S GET TO THE SECOND MATCH!
わあ
18
AND THE SHIROGANE TEAM WILL REPLACE ALL OF ITS MEMBERS!
THE FIRST UP WILL BE KATOU NARUMI ...
CLASHING WITH MERRY-GO-ROUND OLSEN...!!
SHIROGANE FIGHTER 1:
KATOU NARUMI

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg 16: In Japanese, the similarity between the words for human (人間, *ningen*) and doll/puppet (人形, *ningyou*) is used for even more dramatic effect. (人形 is essentially just "human-shaped".)

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.